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preliminary list*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 12 June 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit an official communiqué from the Government of Chile on the occasion of the detonation of a new nuclear device by the People's Republic of China on 8 June 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 66 and 71 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Juan LARRAIN
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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ANNEX

[Original: Spanish]

Official communiqué issued by the Government of Chile on 8 June 1996

The Government of Chile registers the strongest protest at the detonation of a new nuclear device by the People's Republic of China on 8 June 1996.

At the same time, it has noted with the greatest concern the announcement by the Chinese Government that it plans to conduct another explosion before September 1996, following which it will implement a moratorium on nuclear tests.

The Government of Chile reiterates that these tests pose a challenge to the principles and objectives of non-proliferation proclaimed by the international community - including China - when it agreed on the extension of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as well as to those governing the negotiations on the comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty taking place in Geneva.

Chile pursues a consistent and firm policy of rejecting tests that not only would run counter to the feelings and hopes of an international public opinion which aspires to the total prohibition of nuclear weapons, but also pose risks to the environment, health and world security that cannot be overestimated.

Accordingly the Government of Chile, in a spirit of friendship, urges the People's Republic of China to abandon the conduct of these tests and to put into immediate effect the unilateral moratorium that it has indicated it is prepared to implement in September.